

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 10, 2003

Dear Residential Ventilating Fan Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

EPA welcomes your input on the following Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification for ENERGY STAR[®] qualified Residential Ventilating Fans. The attached documents outline the draft product criteria and testing procedure that manufacturers will need to abide by in order to qualify products for the ENERGY STAR. At the end of the comment period, EPA will review and consider all comments submitted by industry and stakeholders and distribute subsequent drafts. The Final Version 2.0 Program Requirements will define all specification and reporting requirements that the ventilating fan manufacturer must meet to continue participating in ENERGY STAR.

The purpose of revising the current Version 1.0 specification is to: (1) remove any ambiguity and clarify existing specification language and requirements to be consistent with current industry practice; (2) incorporate recent changes to the ENERGY STAR specification for residential light fixtures; and (3) review and reassess the performance of current ENERGY STAR inventory.

The specific requirements that EPA revisited include efficacy, light sources, sound levels, warranty, and testing; all were considered as part of the process in writing this Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification. This draft specification also attempts to address the issue of product quality by introducing a new section titled "Quality Assurance Requirements" (Section 3B). EPA's intention in including these quality requirements is to ensure that energy savings are achieved without sacrificing performance and quality. As such, the Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification includes new requirements for warranty, sound levels, and static pressure measurements. **EPA would like to discuss with stakeholders whether or not this is the correct approach to ensure high levels of product performance quality.**

Several other fan types, including heat/energy recovery ventilating fans (HRVs and ERVs), have been identified for consideration in future specifications. However, fans that contain sockets for general lighting that accept incandescent lamps, fans with electric resistant heating elements, and fans with heat lamps were excluded because of their relative inefficiency compared to other sources for heat or light.

Attached is a summary of changes from the Version 1.0 specification to aid in the comparison of the current specification and the revised Version 2.0 draft specification. In addition, the attached Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification includes text boxes that provide explanations as to why certain requirements are being changed and EPA's rationale in making these changes. While reviewing the Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification, please keep in mind that the primary objective of ENERGY STAR is to make it easy for buyers to identify the most energy-efficient products in the marketplace. Typically, when EPA revises a specification, its intent is to initially recognize approximately 25% of the top performers in the market. **It is not EPA's intention to revise a specification so that every model is allowed to qualify.** For products that do not initially meet the specification, it is EPA's hope that manufacturers

will strive to redesign models over time, thus leading to more energy-efficient product choices in the marketplace.

The exchange of ideas and information among EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. As such, you are strongly encouraged to provide prompt feedback. All comments will be posted on the ENERGY STAR Web site for review, unless the submitter indicates otherwise. If you support/concur with the Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification, or do not wish to comment, please state this in writing. It is equally important that EPA understand which portions of the draft specification meet with industry approval, in addition to identifying the sections that may need further revision and/or explanation.

In the coming months, EPA will gather stakeholder feedback on this draft and will issue additional draft specifications, as necessary. It is EPA's intention to finalize the revised product specification as soon as discussions with stakeholders are finalized. The Final Version 2.0 specification will be issued as part of EPA's Partnership Agreement, which also provides partner commitments, along with an updated Qualified Product Information (QPI) Form. Existing partners who wish to continue their partnership in ENERGY STAR for Residential Ventilating Fans will be required to acknowledge the new Version 2.0 specification by submitting an updated Commitment Form.

For more information about ENERGY STAR, please visit our Web site at www.energystar.gov. To track the progress of ENERGY STAR for Ventilating Fans: Click on "Find Products."

Click on "Products in Development" and scroll down to Ventilating Fans.

We encourage you to review this Draft specification and provide comments by February 7, 2003.

Comments should be sent to Erin Trager, ICF Consulting, via e-mail at etrager@icfconsulting.com.

In addition, all partners should have received a letter from EPA announcing the January 2003 launch of the new ENERGY STAR logos. The complete transition to the new logos is expected to take two years. You will begin to see the new logos on the new ENERGY STAR Web site, which will be launched in early February. All existing ENERGY STAR ventilating fan partners will be officially notified when the new ENERGY STAR logos (e.g., certification, promotional and partner marks) are available for use. At that time, you will also receive more detailed guidance on how to access and properly use the logos. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns regarding the new logos.

Thank you for taking the time to review the Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification. I look forward to working with you during the next few months as we collaborate to develop a coherent and challenging specification for ventilating fans. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to contact me at fanara.andrew@epa.gov or (202) 564-9019.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fanara', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Fanara
EPA Program Manager
ENERGY STAR for Ventilating Fans